

Biosolids Environmental Management Program

City of Mankato Wastewater Facility



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National Biosolids Partnership Code of Good Practice

The Code of Good Practice is a broad framework of goals and commitments to guide the production, management, transportation, storage and use or disposal of bio-solids. BMP participants pledge to uphold the following principles of conduct:

Compliance: To commit to compliance with all applicable federal, state and local requirements regarding production at the wastewater treatment facility and management, transportation, storage and use or disposal of biosolids away from the facility.

Product: To provide biosolids that meet applicable standards for their intended use or disposal.

Biosolids Management Program (BMP): To develop a Biosolids Management Program that includes a method of independent third-party verification to ensure effective ongoing biosolids operations.

Quality practices: To require good housekeeping practices for biosolids production, processing, transportation and storage and during final use or disposal operations.

Quality monitoring: To enhance monitoring of biosolids production and management practices.

Contingency and emergency response plans: To develop response plans for unanticipated events such as inclement weather spills and equipment malfunctions.

Sustainable management practices and operations: To enhance the environment by committing to sustainable, environmentally acceptable biosolids management practices and operations through a Biosolids Management Program.

Preventive maintenance: To prepare and implement a preventative maintenance plan for equipment used to manage biosolids and wastewater solids.

Continual improvement: To seek continual improvement in all aspects of biosolids management.

Communication: To provide methods of effective communication with gatekeepers, stakeholders and interested citizens regarding the key elements of each Biosolids Management Program, including information relative to system performance.

Partnership members: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Association of Clean Water Agencies and Water Environment Federation.

Biosolids Management Program

What are biosolids?

Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic matter resulting from wastewater treatment. When treated and processed, this by-product can be recycled and applied as a fertilizer to improve and maintain productive soils and stimulate plant growth.

How are biosolids generated and processed?

Biosolids treatment begins before wastewater reaches the wastewater facility. Pre-treatment regulations require industrial facilities to pre-treat wastewater and remove pollutants before it can be discharged into the sewer. City of Mankato staff regularly monitors wastewater discharged into its collection system. Once wastewater (or sewage) reaches the plant it undergoes physical, chemical and biological processing, which cleans the wastewater and removes and stabilizes solids. Solids are then dewatered and considered biosolids. Biosolids regulations require certain environmental, public health and safety criteria be met in order to land apply the product as a fertilizer.

What is a BMP?

BMP, a program developed by the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP), is designed to improve the quality of biosolids management programs nationwide and to promote public acceptance of biosolids use and disposal practices. The BMP addresses the management aspects of the city's biosolids program and encourages public participation and communication.

Why implement a BMP?

The city of Mankato wastewater facility developed a BMP to foster public awareness about the beneficial reuse of biosolids and to demonstrate all federal, state and local regulations for land application and biosolids reuse are being followed..

Who is involved with the city's biosolids BMP?

BMP is a department-wide initiative. All staff are expected to participate in the program. Public input (rate-paying customers, farming customer and interested parties) is also integral to the program.

Biosolids policy statement

The city of Mankato is committed to::

- ◆ Beneficially reusing biosolids whenever possible.
- ◆ Subscribing to and following the NBP code of good practice.

- ◆ Continually improving biosolids management practices that are:
 - Environmentally sound
 - Technologically feasible
 - Cost effective
 - Socially acceptable
 - Implemented through a BMP

Who oversees the city's biosolids bmp?

The city of Mankato's wastewater facility manages and maintains the biosolids BMP. The BMP coordinator is responsible for updating the BMP. To participate in this effort, or for more information contact staff at 507-387-8667.

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